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HARPENDEN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**

CARL BURNS, M.B., Ch.B., D.C.H., D.P.H.

AND

**SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR**

JOHN SNOWDON, M.A.P.H.I.

FOR THE YEAR 1969



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HARPENDEN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

1969

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Chairman :

Cllr. A.W. Bath

Vice-Chairman :

Cllr. C.W. Curl

Cllr. E. Ackroyd.

Cllr. W.E. Amos.

Cllr. K.H. Bond, M.C.

Cllr. W.E.A. Crowe.

Cllr. J.H.F. Fryd, C.A.

Cllr. I.J. Fulton.

Cllr. A.W. Hunt.

Cllr. Mrs. P.W. Jennery.

Cllr. B.G. McGuinness.

Cllr. Dr. A.B. Miller, M.B., M.R.C.P.

Cllr. D.R. Sampson.

Cllr. B. Thornton-Jones.

Cllr. Mrs. W.M.M. Wyborn.

Public Health Committee

Chairman

Cllr. B.G. McGuinness

Cllr. W.E. Amos.

Cllr. K.H. Bond.

Cllr. W.E.A. Crowe.

Cllr. C.W. Curl.

Cllr. I.J. Fulton.

Cllr. Mrs. P.W. Jennery.

Cllr. Dr. A.B. Miller.

Cllr. Mrs. W.M.M. Wyborn.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF

1969

C. Burns, M.B., Ch.B., D.C.H., D.P.H.	Medical Officer of Health.
P.B.M. O'Reilly, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.	Deputy Medical Officer of Health.
J. Snowdon, M.A.P.H.I.	Senior Public Health Inspector and Housing Manager.
G.T. Chaplin, M.A.P.H.I.	Additional Public Health Inspector and Assistant Housing Manager.
P.D. Wright.	Student Public Health Inspector.
R. Sturman.	Housing Assistant.
Miss M. Saunders.	Typist.
E. Dudley.	Rodent Operative.

Divisional Health Office,  
Bleak House,  
Catherine Street,  
St. Albans,  
Herts.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my annual report on the health of Harpenden for the year 1969.

I am happy, as in previous years, to be able to report that the general health of the area remains good. The crude death rate dropped from 9.3 in 1968 to 7.5 per 1,000 of the estimated population in 1969. The comparable death rate, which is corrected to allow for the population structure of the area as compared with the rest of the country, was 8.9 compared with the rate of 11.9 for the whole of England and Wales. As in previous years, the major causes of death were the degenerative and the malignant diseases, particularly cardio-vascular disease which was the largest single cause of death.

There was a further fall in the birth rate from 15.9 live births per 1,000 population in 1968 to 12.3 in 1969. This is in line with the national trend and is, no doubt, associated with the availability of more effective forms of contraception.

The benefit of the measles vaccination campaign is referred to in the introductory letter to my last report and which took place in the Summer of 1968 was reaped in 1969. Measles epidemics have in the past occurred in a biennial cycle and 1969 would have been an epidemic year during which, in the Urban district of Harpenden, based on past experience one would have expected between five hundred to seven hundred cases to be notified. In the event a mere five notifications were received. At the time of writing a further approach is being made to parents in the hope that those who have not already had their children immunised will do so, unless, of course, the child has already had measles. It is hoped that, as has already occurred with diphtheria and polio, a sufficiently high proportion of children will be immunised virtually to eliminate the disease from the community.

As in previous years, my thanks are due to the many people, both within the Public Health Department and in other agencies, without whose co-operation the work of the Department would have been impossible. It is worth referring in this connection to the fact that, in addition to being the District Council's Medical Officer of Health, I am also, as the County Council's Divisional Medical Officer for the St. Albans Division, responsible for the day to day administration locally of the County Health and Welfare Services. This has considerable advantages in that many problems, which concern for example the housing department, or the public health inspectorate are also well known to the County Council's nursing, health visiting or social work services and my dual role enables me to act as co-ordinator of the various services involved.

For this purpose case conferences are held each quarter at which representatives of the various departments concerned meet under my chairmanship to discuss common problems and co-ordinate a common approach to them.

Finally, I should like to express my gratitude to you Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, for the interest you have taken in the work of the Department throughout the year and for all the help and consideration you have given to myself and my staff.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient servant,

CARL BURNS

Medical Officer of Health.



## STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Registrar General's Estimate of Resident Population	23,000
Area in Acres	3,157
Number of Inhabited houses on the rate books	
Dwelling Houses (including caravans)	7,700
Shops with living accommodation	51
Licensed Premises with living accommodation	25
Rateable Value	£1,353,878
Sum represented by a penny rate	£5,447

### Vital Statistics

#### Live Births

Number	282
Rate per 1,000 population	12.3

#### Illegitimate Live Births

Number	10
Rate percent of total live births	4.0

#### Stillbirths

Number	2
Rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths	7.0

#### Total Live and Stillbirths

284

#### Infant Deaths (death under one year)

Number	4
Rate per 1,000 live Births	14.0

#### Infant Mortality Rates

Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births	14.0
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	15.0
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	-

#### Neo-Natal Mortality Rate

Number	4
Rate per 1,000 total live births	14.0

### Early Neo-Natal Mortality Rate

Number	2
Rate per 1,000 total live births	7.0

### Peri-Natal Mortality Rate

Number (stillbirths and deaths under one week)	4
Rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths	14.0

### Maternal Mortality (including abortion)

-

### Deaths

Number of deaths	173
Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated population	7.5

In order to make comparisons between the rates in different areas and the country as a whole, the Registrar General has supplied 'Comparability Factors' to be applied to these two rates so that comparisons can be made.

### Crude Birth Rate    Adjusted Birth Rate    Crude Death Rate    Adjusted Death Rate

12.3

12.3

7.5

8.9

### Death, Birth, Infant Mortality, Stillbirth and Peri-Natal Mortality Rates

<u>Year</u>	<u>Crude Death Rate</u>	<u>Crude Birth Rate</u>	<u>Infant Mortality Rate</u>
1948	9.3	18.1	11.7
1949	10.4	15.7	17.5
1950	9.3	13.3	25.5
1951	11.7	13.0	16.0
1952	9.1	12.8	42.5
1953	10.7	13.8	29.6
1954	3.4	14.6	4.6
1955	10.5	15.5	12.7
1956	10.5	16.1	7.9
1957	10.1	16.0	19.5
1958	10.6	19.0	25.5
1959	9.3	19.8	17.6
1960	9.9	20.7	27.8
1961	8.8	16.1	27.1
1962	9.4	18.1	14.5
1963	9.9	17.3	14.6
1964	8.5	19.0	5.2
1965	9.4	17.2	11.1
1966	9.2	18.2	-
1967	8.7	17.0	16.0
1968	9.3	15.9	11.2
1969	7.5	12.3	14.0

<u>Year</u>	<u>Stillbirth Rate</u>	<u>Peri-Natal Mortality Rate</u>
1961	6.7	23.6
1962	17.1	25.7
1963	17.2	28.7
1964	12.8	17.9
1965	16.4	24.7
1966	10.2	10.2
1967	5.0	11.0
1968	2.8	11.1
1969	7.0	14.0

#### Causes of Death :

A new system of classification was introduced by the Registrar General in 1968 so that these statistics are not directly comparable with those for the years preceding this.

	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>
1. Malignant Neoplasm - Stomach	~	1
2. Malignant Neoplasm - Intestine	1	4
3. Malignant Neoplasm - Lung, Bronchus	11	3
4. Malignant Neoplasm - Breast	~	5
5. Malignant Neoplasm - Prostate	1	~
6. Other Malignant Neoplasms	1	10
7. Diabetes Mellitus	1	1
8. Meningitis	1	~
9. Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	2	2
10. Hypertensive Disease	3	2
11. Ischaemic Heart Disease	29	20
12. Other forms of Heart Disease	2	2
13. Cerebrovascular Disease	11	23
14. Other Diseases of Circulatory System	5	2
15. Influenza	1	~
16. Pneumonia	6	3
17. Bronchitis and Emphysema	4	~
18. Other diseases of Respiratory System	1	~
19. Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	~	1
20. Other Diseases of Digestive System	2	~
21. Nephritis and Nephrosis	~	2
22. Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System	1	~
23. Congenital Anomalies	1	1
24. Birth Injury, Difficult Labour etc.	~	1
25. Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	~
26. All other Accidents	3	2
	<hr/> 88	<hr/> 85

## Vital Statistics - 1969 - England and Wales.

Provisional figures based on Quarterly Returns of Registrar General.

### Births

Live Births (per 1,000 total population)	16.3
Stillbirths (per 1,000 total live and stillbirths)	13.0

### Deaths

All causes (per 1,000 total population)	11.9
* Infants under 1 year (per 1,000 related live births)	18.0
Maternal Mortality (per 1,000 total live and stillbirths)	0.2
Neo-Natal Death Rate (per 1,000 related live births)	12.0
Peri-Natal Mortality Rate (per 1,000 total live and stillbirths)	23.0
* Lowest ever recorded in this country.	

This table is included to enable comparisons to be made between local rates and national rates, but in dealing with the relatively low number from which local rates are calculated one must be very cautious about drawing conclusions.

### Number of Deaths and Death Rate from Tuberculosis and Cancer - 1969 :

The provisional number of deaths and death rates per million population for England and Wales during the year are as follows :-

	<u>Number</u>			<u>Rate per million population</u>		
	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Persons</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Persons</u>
Respiratory Tuberculosis	841	251	1,092	35	10	22
Other Tuberculosis	484	264	748	20	11	15
Cancer of Lung and Bronchus	24,689	5,074	29,763	1,039	202	610
Other Cancer	37,295	47,669	84,964	1,570	1,901	1,740

### Commentary on Vital Statistics

#### Births :

There were 282 live births in the area during 1969 giving a birth rate of 12.3 per thousand. This compares with 358 births in 1968, a birth rate of 15.9 per thousand. There were 2 stillbirths in 1969, giving a still-birth rate of 7.0 compared with 1 stillbirth and a stillbirth rate of 2.8 in 1968. There were 4 infants who died under the age of 1 year, giving an infant mortality rate of 14.0. The birth rate of 12.3 is the lowest recorded over the past twenty years and compares with a national rate of 16.3 and a rate for the St. Albans Division of 14.0.



### Deaths :

173 people of all ages died in the Urban District during 1969 giving a crude death rate of 7.5 and a standardised death rate of 8.9. This is to be compared with a crude death rate of 9.3 in 1968.

Degenerative disease of the heart and arteries was the commonest cause of death, accounting for more than half the total number of deaths during the year. Deaths from this cause and from certain forms of cancer, particularly lung cancer, are on the increase, whilst the infectious diseases, the major killers of an earlier generation, have largely been conquered by improved standards of living and hygiene, immunisation and modern methods of treatment with germ killing drugs.

The degenerative and malignant diseases emerge as the great public health problem of the present. Much can be done by the individual to reduce his or her chances of succumbing prematurely to one of these conditions but, unfortunately, like so much good advice, it is easier to give than to act upon. There is no doubt, nevertheless, that dietary control to avoid overweight, the taking of regular exercise and the shunning of cigarettes would, if widely adopted, have a dramatic effect on the figures quoted in these pages.

### Cancers :

37 people died of cancers, 14 men and 23 women. This is an increase on the number reported in 1968. Despite fluctuations in the local figures the national figure has risen inexorably year by year. Between 1956 and 1968 the annual number of deaths from this cause rose from 18,185 to 28,826, which is a rise from 3.5% to almost 5% of the total number of deaths. The habit of cigarette smoking is responsible for the vast majority of these deaths as well as contributing in large measure to the increasing mortality from coronary artery disease.

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious Diseases.

	<u>No. of Cases</u>
Scarlet Fever	1
Measles	8
Infective Hepatitis	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	3
Paratyphoid Fever	1

Tuberculosis :

During 1969 the following new cases of tuberculosis were notified in the Urban District :-

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Respiratory</u>		<u>Non-Respiratory</u>		<u>Total</u>	
	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>
Under 5 years						
5 -- 14 ..						
15 -- 24 ..						
25 -- 44 ..						
45 -- 64 ..	2				2	
65 years and over	1				1	
	3				3	

During the year there were 12 cases removed from the register. The state of the Tuberculosis register at the 31st December, 1969, was as follows :-

<u>Respiratory</u>		<u>Non-Respiratory</u>		<u>Total</u>
<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	
47	9	7	11	74

## SECTION B.

### GENERAL PROVISIONS OF THE HEALTH SERVICES OF THE AREA

#### Welfare Centres and Clinics :

The County Council Child Welfare Clinics are held at 40, Luton Road every Wednesday afternoon, the Doctors being in attendance at each session and at Batford Junior School on the second and fourth Thursday afternoons. An Infant Welfare Clinic previously held at the Methodist Church Hall, Southdown Road every Friday afternoon, with the Doctor in attendance on the second and fourth Fridays has now been transferred to the purpose built Health Annexe in the grounds of Grove School. The Ophthalmic, Dental and Speech Therapy Clinics are held at 40, Luton Road, by appointment.

This arrangement is working very well. At Batford we are deeply indebted to the Headmaster, Mr. G. Rees, for his helpful co-operation.

#### Hospitals :

The Harpenden Memorial Hospital forms part of the Luton and Hitchin Group administered by the Management Committee under the North-West Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board. Four House Committees have been appointed by the Management Committee, one of which is concerned with this hospital, and for this purpose the hospital is linked with Welwyn and Stevenage.

#### Statistics :

Year ended 31st December, 1969.

Bed Complement	Surgical and Medical	13	
	Maternity	11	
	Geriatric	8	32
Average daily number of occupied beds			21.36
Admissions			657
Discharges			613
Deaths			39
Number of Births	Live	266	
	Stillbirths	-	
	Deaths	1	267

	<u>New Patients</u>	<u>Attendances</u>
Physiotherapy Dept:	405	1,752
Casualty Department:	1,138	1,367
Specialist Consultations:	816	2,064
Out-patients treated by General Practitioners:	218	220



REPORT OF THE SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS

Public Health Acts	Primary Inspections	345
	Re-visits	580
	Visits to:- Houses	534
	Moveable Dwellings	21
	Business Premises	181
	Schools	44
	Other Premises	145
	Visits re:- Repairs	93
	Drainage	182
	Infectious Diseases	206
	Smell Nuisances	101
	Noise Nuisances	54
	Other Nuisances	289
Housing Acts		17
Rent Acts		5
Rodent Control (By Rodent Operative)		1,354
Rodent Control (By P.H.I.)		89
Factories Act		149
Petroleum Acts		40
Animal Boarding Establishments Act		2
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act		311
Pet Animals Act		1
Food Hygiene		203
	Visits to:- Bakers and Confectioners	53
	Butchers	21
	Cafes and Canteens	49
	Chemists	2
	Fish Shops	17
	General Stores and Grocers	40
	Greengrocers	8
	Licensed Premises	13

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3,096

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## GENERAL SANITATION

### Complaints :

During the year 557 complaints of all types were received and of this number 275 related to infestations by rats and mice and 201 concerned wasps' nests.

With the decline in the number of tenanted properties complaints from private tenants are very seldom received. It is more usual for complaints to be of a general nature affecting more than one person. This applies particularly to noise complaints and complaints of smoke nuisance.

No evidence has been found of multi-occupation of dwellings where conditions could give rise to concern.

### Water Supply :

The water supply for the whole area is supplied by a private undertaking, the Colne Valley Water Company, whose headquarters are at Watford.

The supply of water, which has been satisfactory both in quality and quantity, is obtained from two boreholes, one in Shakespeare Road and one at East Hyde, which is just outside the District. The raw supply at both boreholes is chlorinated as a precautionary measure and very few complaints are received as to taste or contamination. During the year work was completed on an underground storage reservoir of three million gallons capacity, which will safeguard the water requirements for a rapidly expanding area.

Samples taken during the year were as follows :-

Bacteriological - main supply     ...     ...     54

Results in all cases were satisfactory. The degree of hardness is in the region of 25 and is such that no difficulties arise from plumbo-solvent action. Every house in the district is supplied with water from the main supply, direct to the house.

### Sewerage :

The majority of properties in the district enjoy main drainage facilities and the sewage is treated at one main sewage works under the control of the Council's Surveyor.

The modernisation of the Works appears to have been very successful and I feel sure that residents in the vicinity must be very conscious of the fact that no trouble is now experienced from smell emanating from the Works.

The total quantity of sewage treated at the Sewage Works was 429,265,000 gallons compared with 402,783,710 gallons in 1968 and 297,513,000 gallons five years ago.

#### Drainage and Cesspools :

182 visits were made for the purpose of testing and checking the drainage systems including cesspools. 31 cesspools are still in use in scattered parts of the district, and it will be some time before it is possible to connect these to main drainage. Very satisfactory arrangements still exist with the St. Albans Rural District Council for emptying cesspools in the area, and during the year 39 emptyings were carried out.

#### Common Lodging Houses :

There are no common lodging houses within the District.

#### Public Swimming Bath :

The Council's open air swimming pool in Rothamstead Park continues to increase in popularity, and has indeed been a much appreciated amenity. Every possible effort is made to ensure that the water in the pool is kept to a satisfactory standard at all times and twice daily tests at the pool are taken for this purpose. In addition, 72 samples of the water were sent to the Public Health Laboratory and in no case was anything other than an extremely satisfactory result obtained.

#### Silver Cup Pond :

The continuing misuse of the pond by young children forced the Council, in mid-June, to drain the pond and leave it out of use during the warm Summer months. It was refilled in September but, subsequently, the Council, realising the impossibility of keeping the water in a satisfactory bacteriological condition, decided that there was no alternative other than to close the pond down completely and fill it in.

It was inevitable that this action was unpopular with many people, but unless very large sums of money had been expended on treatment plant there was no other alternative open to the Council.

### Moveable Dwellings :

There are two caravan sites in the district; one is privately owned and licensed for sixteen caravans and the other is owned by the Council and provides accommodation for twelve caravans. Both sites are in situations where they do not impair local amenities and they do help to satisfy a local demand.

Each site is provided with proper roadways, flush toilets, chemical closet disposal units, laundry facilities and electricity supplies to each caravan.

### Notices :

The following notices were served during the year. Compliance was effected without the need for instituting legal proceedings.

\*

Informal notices served during the year	39
Informal notices complied with by owners during the year	37
Formal notices served during the year	Nil
Formal notices complied with by owners during the year	Nil

\*

Excluding notices served under Offices, Shops  
and Railway Premises Act, 1963.

### Rodent Control :

The extermination of rats and mice is carried out as a free service to the occupiers of private premises. A charge is made in respect of business premises at an hourly rate to cover the cost of labour, materials and administration.

275 complaints concerning infestations by rats and mice were received and dealt with and treatment was carried out at 682 properties. For this purpose, 1,447 visits were made and 89 dead rats were found. The Council employ one Rodent Operative for this work, Mr. E. Dudley.

Careful supervision of the Council's Depot and Stores was maintained during the year and any infestations of the Sewage Works was dealt with by the Manager and the Rodent Operative.

### Wasps' Nests :

201 complaints were received of wasps' nests and these were treated. This compares with 41 complaints in 1968 and resulted in an extremely busy time for the public health staff. These complaints are received over a comparatively short period of time at the height of the Summer holiday season.



FACTORIES ACT, 1961.

The following tables show the prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act :-

Part I of the Act.

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.

<u>Premises</u>	<u>Number</u> <u>on</u> <u>Register</u>	<u>Inspections</u>	<u>Number of</u> <u>Written</u> <u>Notices</u>	<u>Occupiers</u> <u>Prosecuted</u>
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authority:	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Factories not included in above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority:	63	138	2	Nil
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding Outworker's premises):	42	11	1	Nil
	<u>105</u>	<u>149</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>Nil</u>

2. Cases in which defects were found.

<u>Particulars</u>	<u>Number of cases in which defects were found</u>				<u>Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted</u>
	<u>Found</u>	<u>Remedied</u>	<u>To H.M. Inspector</u>	<u>By H.M. Inspector</u>	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Overcrowding (S.2)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(b) Unsuitable or defective	3	3	Nil	Nil	Nil
(c) Not separate for sexes	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outworkers)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
	3	3	Nil	Nil	Nil

Part VIII of the Act

Outwork - Sections 133 and 134.

<u>Nature of Work</u>	<u>No. of Outworkers in August list required by S.133.</u>	<u>No. of cases of default in sending lists to Council.</u>	<u>No. of Prosecutions for failure to supply lists.</u>
-----------------------	--	---	---

Wearing apparel

Making etc.

Cleaning and

Washing.

6

Nil

Nil

All other  
types of home  
work

Nil

Nil

Nil

Total :

6

Nil

Nil

All are employed by firms outside the  
district

Outwork - Section 134.

<u>Nature of Work</u>	<u>No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises.</u>	<u>Notices</u>	<u>Prosecutions</u>
All types of outwork	Nil	Nil	Nil
<u>Total :</u>	<u>Nil</u>	<u>Nil</u>	<u>Nil</u>

## OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963.

### Registration :

At the beginning of the year, 243 premises were registered under the provisions of the Act and, of these, 235 were known to comply fully with all the requirements. During the year 7 new registrations were made but 8 registrations lapsed, leaving a total of 242 registered premises at the end of 1969. In general, the public are still unaware of the obligation to register premises prior to starting a new business or employing people to work for them. This means that the appointed inspectors have to "follow up" any changes of occupancy, changes of use or the opening of new premises to see whether or not registration is necessary. This, in itself, has proved to be a very difficult task in this particular area. There are many cases where businesses are established with no employees but within a few weeks commence to employ without applying for registration, or where registered premises change hands several times between inspections. In order to overcome this problem it was decided that short checks should be made of all business premises in entire roads from time to time and this was done in the main areas during the year.

### Inspections :

All registered premises have received an initial inspection and most have had one or more subsequent general inspections. Where premises are normally inspected at relatively frequent intervals for some other purpose (e.g. food premises) the inspector automatically looks for contraventions of the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act at the same time. In general, an attempt is made to inspect all other premises at least once within a two year cycle, although, in practice, pressure of other work does delay these inspections on occasions. When a general inspection is made the whole premises, whether large or small, are covered and comparison made with the full record completed on the initial inspection. Where any contraventions are found the inspector will point out to the employer what is wrong and will follow this up with a letter and subsequent inspections at short intervals until the contraventions are remedied.

Where it is known from experience that contraventions are likely, or conditions will otherwise deteriorate to a considerable extent, the interval between general inspections is reduced. Obviously, any complaint received or request from an employer for advice results in an immediate visit to the premises irrespective of the interval since the last general inspection.

### Operation of the General Provisions of the Act :

On initial inspection of newly registered premises, the most common contraventions continue to be the lack of first aid boxes and thermometers. In addition, there are still instances where no constant



supply of running hot water is provided or no artificial lighting to water closets. There were very few instances where there has been any major difficulty in securing compliance and in no case has it yet been necessary to institute legal proceedings to secure compliance with the general provisions of the Act.

Measurements taken in the premises receiving a general inspection have shown that the standards of lighting are reasonably adequate in all rooms in which people are required to work and no cases of excessive glare were found.

#### Accidents :

Five accidents were reported all of which were non-fatal and were as follows :-

Cuts	1
Sprains and Strains	2
Bruising, crushing and concussion	2

All the accidents occurred in food premises and were of a comparatively minor nature. In no case was it felt that there had been a possibility of some contravention of the Act, and no investigations were made.

In general employers are more aware of their responsibilities to notify accidents now, but it seems probable that in spite of letters having been sent drawing employer's attention to this obligation, many still forget to notify an accident, although I have no evidence that this is so. Further statistical information on the administration of this Act is given below :-

Table A.                      Registration and General Inspections.

<u>Class of Premises</u>	<u>No. Registered in year</u>	<u>Total Registered at 31.12.69.</u>	<u>Premises Receiving General Inspections</u>
Offices	1	72	10
Retail Shops	6	152	31
Wholesalers etc.	-	-	-
Caterers etc.	-	18	4
Fuel Storage Depots	-	-	-
TOTAL	7	242	45

Table B.

Number of Visits of all kinds (including general inspections)  
to registered premises .. .. . 311

Table C.

Analysis of Workplace of Persons Employed in  
Registered Premises at end of Year

<u>Class of Workplace</u>	<u>Number of Persons Employed</u>
Offices	541
Retail Shops	701
Wholesale Departments, Warehouses	13
Catering Establishments open to the public	102
Canteens	11
Fuel Storage Depots	-
TOTAL	1,368
Total Males	526
Total Females	842

Table D.

Exemptions

No applications for exemption certificates were received.

Table E.

Prosecutions

No prosecutions were instituted.

Table F.

No. of Inspectors appointed - 2  
No. of other staff employed - Nil

## CONTROL OF FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES

### Meat Supply and Slaughtering Facilities :

No slaughterhouses have been used in the District since the war but adequate slaughtering facilities are available in surrounding districts. The demand from local butchers for such facilities is, however, very limited indeed and most retailers seem to rely on supplies of carcase meat from wholesale meat markets. A careful check has been kept on the vehicles used for transporting meat, together with the protective clothing worn by the meat handlers.

Arrangements are still in force whereby assistance in meat inspection duties would be given to the St. Albans Rural District Council should the necessity arise at any time.

The following meat and meat products were condemned during the year.

Bacon	99 lb.
Rabbit	30 lb.
Lamb	122 lb.
Pork	28 lb.

### Food Inspections :

The following foodstuffs were condemned as being unfit for human consumption and disposal by incineration or burying on the refuse tip was arranged in every case.

Frozen Foods	2,145 Pkts.
Ice Cream	452 Pkts.
Cereals	7 lb.
Cheese	18 lb.

### Poultry Inspection :

There are no poultry processing premises within the district.

### Food Premises :

There are 144 food premises in the area which fall into the following general categories (in some cases there is more than one category in a single premises) :-

General Stores and Grocers	28
Cafes, Restaurants and Canteens	48
Bakers and Confectioners	23
Greengrocers	14
Butchers	13
Public houses, off licenses etc.	34
Chemists	7
Fish Shops	6

13 premises are registered for the manufacture and sale of sausages, preserved foods etc.

203 routine inspections of food premises were carried out during the year with particular attention being paid to the requirements of the Food Hygiene Regulations.

### Food Complaints :

30 complaints were received regarding food sold from shops in the District during the year. Each case was fully investigated and, where appropriate, written warnings were issued. In no case was it thought necessary to institute legal proceedings.

### Ice Cream :

49 premises are registered for the sale and storage of ice cream under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, and in each case the ice cream is obtained from one of the well known large manufacturers. Practically all the ice cream sold from these premises is pre-packed. No premises are registered for the manufacture of ice cream.

The trend towards the sale of 'soft' ice cream continues, particularly from mobile vehicles. Effective control of such vehicles continues to be exceedingly difficult since they mainly operate at weekends and holidays and are based outside the urban district.

39 visits were made to premises registered for the storage and sale of ice cream.

Milk and Dairies :

There are in the District 15 registered distributors of milk and one registered dairy, although no milk is actually processed or bottled in Harpenden. Milk is supplied from three large plants in adjoining areas and only heat treated milk is now sold within the District.

The Liquid Egg (Pasteurisation) Regulations, 1963 :

There are no egg pasteurisation plants in the District and no samples have been taken during the year.



## HOUSING

Number of new houses and flats erected during the year :

(a)	By the Local Authority	..	16
(b)	By private enterprise	..	197
			<hr/>
			213
			<hr/>

1. Inspection of dwelling houses during the year :

(i)	a.	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts)	..	47
	b.	Number of inspections made for the purpose	..	110
(ii)	a.	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (i) above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Consolidated) Regulations, 1925.	..	-
	b.	Number of inspections made for the purpose	..	-
(iii)		Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	..	3
(iv)		Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	..	29

2. Remedy of defects during the year without the service of Formal Notices :

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	..	28
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3. Action under Statutory Powers :

A. Proceedings under Section 9, 10 and 12 of the Housing Act, 1957.

(i)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	..	..	-
(ii)	Number of dwelling houses rendered fit after service of Formal notices			
(a)	By Owners	..	..	-
(b)	By Local Authority in default of Owners	..	..	-

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(i)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which informal notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	..	..	29
(ii)	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of Formal notices			
(a)	By Owners	..	..	-
(b)	By Local Authority in default of Owners	..	..	-

Housing Acts :

During the year 3 families were rehoused from properties in or adjoining Clearance Areas but no properties were demolished. Since the programme for dealing with sub-standard property was commenced in 1955, 112 houses have actually been demolished.

Rent Act, 1957 :

No applications for either Certificates of Disrepair or their revocation were received during the year.



## HOUSING MANAGEMENT

During the year a further 16 units of accommodation were provided.

The total number of housing units owned by the Council is as follows :-

Houses	690
Flats	269
Old Peoples Dwellings	61
	<hr/>
	1,020
	<hr/>

The following visits and inspections were made in the performance of duties in connection with housing management :-

To Applicants	77
Maintenance	2,701
Administration	48
Tenancies	69

### Summary of Housing Applicants :

<u>Applicants</u>	<u>Active</u> <u>List</u>	<u>Deferred</u> <u>List</u>	<u>Total</u>
Married Couples with children	66	57	123
Married Couples and Engaged Couples	54	43	97
Single Persons	33	14	47
Old Persons	75	-	75
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	228	114	342
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

During the year, in addition to the 16 new dwellings completed, a further 60 tenancies and 7 exchanges were arranged.

PETROLEUM REGULATIONS

The provisions of the Petroleum Acts and Regulations are administered by the Department. 27 occupiers of filling stations, repair garages and other premises are licensed to store petroleum spirit and 40 visits were made to such premises during the year.

I am,

Your Obedient Servant,

J. SNOWDON

Senior Public Health  
Inspector



